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# The New Public Health Reports

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The new *Public Health Reports* carries forward a record of service extending from 1878.

The amalgamation, in the present journal, of several other Public Health Service technical periodicals represents, we believe, a strengthening and revitalizing of the *Reports*.

It is, moreover, an attempt to reflect the changing—and broadening—concepts of public health which have been emerging during the past decade.

In 1878, when *Public Health Reports* was founded, its primary function was to carry out the Service's responsibility for compiling and publishing data useful in combating epidemics.

Today, public health responsibility embraces such varied and complex fields as basic research, the problems of the aging, rehabilitation, and hospital construction—in addition to the control of epidemic diseases and the fight against the venereal diseases and tuberculosis.

It is our hope that the new *Public Health Reports* will be a useful and challenging source of information for all who are working in this field. The new monthly journal will focus primarily on public health practice, health service administration, and on research in these fields. It will be concerned largely with those aspects of public health which touch upon the work of the official agencies.

We hope that, as time goes on, it will become a real forum for the exchange of professional ideas and a stimulus toward new and better concepts of public health practice.

To aid in the development of the editorial standards and policies, a Board of Editors has been named. The board is made up of individuals of experience and wisdom in various public health fields. We shall rely heavily upon them and upon our editorial consultants, to whom will fall the task of reviewing manuscripts. I am deeply appreciative of their willingness to aid us in the development of the journal.

The pages of the new *Public Health Reports*, like those of its predecessors, will be open to responsible authors, outside as well as within the Federal service, in the United States as well as abroad.

With this issue—No. 1 of volume 67—*Public Health Reports* turns another page in its long career. Its usefulness, as in the past, will depend upon how well it meets the needs of its readers.

We are relying upon you, as well as upon our Board of Editors and the staff, for contributions and for the kind of constructive criticism which is essential to the growth and development of any publication, new or old.

LEONARD A. SCHEELE, M. D.  
*Surgeon General*

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professional and technical workers who are marking up steady advances in a concerted drive to improve the Nation's health. Through the 65 intervening volumes runs the record of the public health movement in the United States—a record of its frustrations and dead ends, of its many victories, of its enduring problems.

## Epidemics and Quarantines

The *Bulletins of the Public Health* expired after 46 numbers, leaving a clear field for the short-lived National Board of Health and its quarantine reports. Publication was resumed in 1887, however, when No. 47 came off the press as the *Weekly Abstract of Sanitary Reports*.

The Division of Sanitary Reports and Statistics was responsible for the *Abstract*, and a special officer was detailed to supervise its editing and mailing. Still a bare chronicle of only a few pages, it reached 1,800 readers and was—in its editor's words—"greatly appreciated not only by quarantine officers, but steamship companies, merchants, and the press."

In recording the prevalence of communicable diseases, and little else, the *Abstract* faithfully reflected the public health functions as carried out then by the Marine-Hospital Service. The quarantine powers and duties of the Service, both interstate and foreign, were enlarged by Congressional acts of 1890 and 1893—none too soon, for there was a cholera pandemic in the